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DENTAL ASSISTANTS AND SECRETARIES

ELSIE GREY

Elsie Grey will be glad to hear from any readers, dental assistants, secretaries, dental hygienists and dentists. Questions are just as welcome as suggestions. It is hoped that this department will provide a free and helpful exchange of thought on new and better methods in dentistry. It is your department and we want you to take the fullest advantage of it. Write to Elsie Grey, care THE DENTAL DIGEST.

CALL LIST

Ruth A. Gates, Elyria, Ohio, suggests the use of a small index file which may be purchased complete with index and cards at the dime store for a total of 30 cents. She writes: "I do not use individual cards for each patient, but fill up the cards with information for as many patients as they will hold—name, address, telephone number, and any other data of particular importance, using abbreviations where possible. The cards are filed under the month the patients are due for their next appointments for treatment, prophylaxis, examinations,

etc. The first of each month the complete call list is ready on a few small cards, with full information and hours of time saved. Some patients are called by telephone, others are written to. I find a personal note more efficient than a printed card. The returns are worth while, and with a little educating, the patients appreciate the service. I explain that the only reason they are placed on the call list is for their benefit, to make it possible to render them the most efficient service we can."

STERILIZATION OF BURS

Burs may be boiled in water containing either soap powder, borax, or sodium bicarbonate, after having been brushed with a stiff bristle brush for removal of as much débris as possible. They are then brushed again with the brush on a laboratory lathe for careful removal of any particles that might cling to them. The burs are examined under a magnifying glass to make certain the cutting edges are sharp. All burs with dull

surfaces are discarded. The burs are wiped carefully with alcohol and placed in a covered receptacle. Immediately before the burs are used they should be immersed in a sterilizing agent.

Wire brushes should not be used for burs or broaches because they dull the cutting edges.

QUESTION—A great many of our patients gag when a plaster impression is being taken, or when x-rays are taken. Can it be avoided? What can I do? —G. G., Massachusetts

ANSWER—There are lozenges on the market which can be used to correct gagging. Some patients will cease gagging if the head rest is raised so that the head will be tilted slightly forward. Gargling with ice water far back into the throat will stop gagging in others. The patient should be instructed to breathe deeply through the nose; this will also help. If everything else fails, a novocain solution may be prepared to paint the patient's palate; this acts as an anesthetic and relieves the sensitivity of muscles and nerves.

THE ORAL MANIFESTATION OF BLOOD DYSCRASIAS

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great deal of bleeding from the gums although they were not markedly swollen. The oral mucous membrane was pale, and gangrene was present on many areas of the gingival tissues and oral mucosa.

CONCLUSION

Attention has been directed to the more common manifestations in the oral cavity associated with blood dyscrasias. Swelling, discoloration of gums, bleeding, ulcerations, necrosis, exudation, hyperplasia, hypertrophy, and congestion should not be regarded as purely local diseases, because there may be some systemic disturbance to account for their presence. This is especially true in blood dyscrasias.

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